

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ZHOUYI WANG

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zhouyi Wang for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Zhouyi Wang is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Zhouyi Wang is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Zhouyi Wang for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

## HONORING NEW CITIZENS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on Friday, June 9, 2017. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge John E. Martin, will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On June 9, 2017, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Fabian Alejandro Gonzalez Franco, Muralidhar Ganji, Qiang Xu, Gustavo Quijada Vega, Alan John McDonald, Marco Antonio Gonzalez Jimenez, Krysta Carmella Ma Abuyo Mapoy, Miao Cai, Blagica Bujaroska, Penina Kagwiria Imanene, Gaulo Amezcu Luna, Marvin Antonio Sandoval, Dolores Eumelia Romero, Paula Phan Duong, Juan Diego Salgado, Hang Trung Dinh, Noe Joel Salazar, Ahmed Abed Kanaan, Vicar

Serrano Valencia, Thales Felipe Neves Pontes, Mara Carolina Stibitz, Smruti Prabodhchandra Damania, Tatiana Carolina Zambrano Marin, Ishvarbhai Venabhai Patel, Pascual Lopez Rocha, Laura Ivonne Carmona Garcia, Liz Yessica Relinski, Yongtao Zhang, Maryrose Sachiko Moore, and Apollo Raj Velummylum.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on June 9, 2017. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
RALPH PONTILLO**HON. MIKE KELLY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of my constituents from Western Pennsylvania, Mr. Ralph Pontillo. Following nearly 30 years of service, Ralph recently retired as president of the Manufacturer & Business Association (MBA), a professional trade organization that represents more than 3,000 member companies in the tri-state region.

Ralph is a veteran of the United States Air Force and a native of Erie County, where he graduated from Strong Vincent High School and Gannon University, earning a baccalaureate degree in political science. Ralph joined the MBA in 1987 and served as manager of member services until he was named president on April 1, 1990. Ralph maintained his role as president for the following three decades, creating a legacy built on advocating for the business community.

Throughout his tenure, Ralph was instrumental in much of the MBA's success, including the facility relocation to its present headquarters and the construction of the MBA's Conference Center. These two projects allowed the MBA to expand and offer additional programs and services, enabling the MBA to

become one of the largest regional employer associations of its kind.

Ralph is credited with spearheading one of the MBA's most visible community outreach programs, the annual Roar on the Shore® charitable motorcycle rally. Roar on the Shore® is one of the fastest-growing charitable motorcycle rallies in the United States, attracting approximately 165,000 visitors to the Erie area annually, creating an economic boost of more than \$25 million. Over the past ten years, the rally has raised more than \$800,000 for local charities.

Ralph has actively participated in a number of local, state and national boards, voluntarily dedicating his time and effort in order to support various initiatives. Ralph is a member of the American Society of Association Executives and for more than 20 years has maintained the status of a Certified Association Executive, a professional designation that recognizes the highest level of achievement and excellence in the profession. Ralph's expertise has been an absolute asset to the various boards and organizations with which he has been involved.

Ralph is an admirable professional who has created a praiseworthy legacy built on advocacy and service. He took advantage of his role as President of the MBA, continuously striving for greatness in all that he did. Ralph has made lasting contributions and the Erie community will reap the benefits of his efforts long after his retirement. Ralph will be remembered as a catalyst for improvement and a longtime champion for the business community.

## CANTERBURY COUGARS BASEBALL

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Canterbury School's men's baseball team for their second consecutive Class 3A State Championship. The Cougars clinched the Title following their tremendous 4–1 victory over Jacksonville University Christian at Hammond Stadium in their hometown of Fort Myers. This triumph came through their outstanding teamwork and ability to adapt during games. The Title caps off an excellent season where the team achieved an astounding record of 27 wins to just 5 losses.

I congratulate the Canterbury Cougars and Head Coach Frank Turco for an excellent season and this unforgettable win. I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of these young men in the years to come.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. DON MASCH AFTER NEARLY 23 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH ATK AND VISTA OUTDOOR, INC.

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Don Masch after nearly 23 years of service with ATK and Vista Outdoor, Inc.

Don was born and raised in Waterbury, Connecticut and graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1966. After high school, he attended the University of Connecticut and graduated in 1970 with a degree in Political Science.

As a Distinguished Military Graduate, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Don served in a variety of command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, including assignments to Syria, Lebanon, Germany and Israel. He holds a Master of Arts in National Security Affairs from the United States Naval Postgraduate School, and is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute and Army Command and General Staff College. In the Pentagon, he served on the Army Staff and in the Secretary of the Army's Office of Legislative Liaison, retiring in 1993 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Don Masch began his career in industry in February of 1993, initially with Short Brothers USA, joining ATK in 1994 as part of the corporation's government relations team. There he became a trusted lobbyist and advocate on a wide range of defense and aerospace policies and programs. He quickly earned a reputation as a reliable and effective spokesman in Washington, D.C., helping to establish ATK on Capitol Hill. His fact-based approach to issues and commitment to integrity made him indispensable to ATK and the people in Washington with whom he worked.

In addition to his role as head of Congressional Relations at ATK, Don served as the head of the Ethics Panel at the Association of Government Relations Professionals, President of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, and in other association positions. He also was a guest speaker at numerous seminars and panels, including NDIA and Georgetown Law School.

When ATK acquired Orbital Sciences in 2015, he played a key role in the transition of both the Orbital ATK and the newly formed Vista Outdoor Government Relations teams, becoming Vista's Vice President for Government and Industry Relations. As head of Vista's federal affairs, Don has proven to be an effective advocate on conservation, sportsmen's issues and 2nd Amendment rights. He is well respected for both his knowledge and his consummate professionalism, with a warm sense of humor and strong work ethic.

As Don and his wife Karen head off to future endeavors and more time with their sons Don and Brian and five grandchildren, I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his diligent service to the country and to the defense and outdoor industries.

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPION BOWLER ZACH BOBBETT

### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of Zach Bobbett of the Union Springs/Port Byron Bowling Team, who was part of the Section IV team in the New York State Public High School Association on March 5, 2017. The Section IV team defeated the Section III team by 228 pins to secure the title.

Zach Bobbett scored the second highest score of the tournament with 1,341 pins over six games.

I am honored to recognize the hard work displayed by Zach Bobbett and the rest of the Section IV team, their families, the coaching staff, and teachers. This is a historic win for Central New York and I am confident that the positive experiences from the 2017 season will yield continued success in both athletics and academics.

### TRINITY AVERITT

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Trinity Averitt for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Trinity Averitt is a student at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Trinity Averitt is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Trinity Averitt for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

### HONORING FRED DOUGLAS MASON, JR.

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend a great American who has devoted more than five decades of his life to the continuing struggle of our nation's working families for greater opportunity, empowerment, and social justice.

On June 16, Fred Douglas Mason, Jr., who retired in April as President of the Maryland-District of Columbia AFL-CIO and its 384,000 members, will be honored at a dinner in his honor.

We would be remiss if we did not recognize the contributions and struggles of Fred Mason and all the other hard-working Americans who forge our steel, build our automobiles, care for our families in times of illness or injury, teach our children, and contribute their sweat and toil to enriching our lives in so many other ways.

Fred Mason's career, both on the assembly lines of Baltimore and as a union organizer and leader, exemplified the strong and resilient character of the Americans he served during the last 52 years.

Fred personally experienced the heartbreak that wreaked havoc on the economic and social order of our Greater Baltimore community—as Bethlehem Steel, General Motors, General Electric, Proctor and Gamble and other manufacturing corporations abandoned their Baltimore operations, leaving nearly 100,000 working families to reach deeply into their hearts, pull themselves together, and chart new courses for their lives.

Fred Mason also knew the empowering strength of education that provides needed skills and justifies a living wage, a health care plan and a secure retirement.

Throughout his career, he worked tirelessly to expand the job training and tuition assistance that has allowed so many of his brothers and sisters to build better lives.

From his earliest days as a student at Morgan State College (now University), Fred Mason also understood that an integrated America, both racially and socio-economically, is a stronger and more prosperous nation.

And although he will be laying down the gavel as President of the Maryland-DC AFL-CIO, I am confident that Fred Mason will carry on in the cause of universal civil and human rights.

I hold this conviction because, like Fred Mason, I, too, am a son of labor and a civil rights worker.

And like Fred Mason, we all must understand that the civil rights movement of our own time is not limited to issues of race or gender or freedom of conscience—as critically important as those struggles remain.

The civil rights movement of our time, Mr. Speaker, is also about whether parents can afford to feed and house their children—and provide those children with the education and health care that they need and deserve.

The choice is ours.

Will America once again become a nation of opportunity for everyone willing to work hard?

Or will hard-working Americans continue to be squeezed past the breaking point by policies, enacted from afar, that devalue our people, our economy and the nation that we love?

Mr. Speaker, this is the message that Fred Mason has lived and taught to others for more than five decades—and the same message that has become central to the national debates of our own time.

It was at Morgan State College that Fred first came to understand that organization matters and is critical to progress in our country in the area of Civil Rights.

At Bethlehem Steel and on the assembly lines of General Motors, Fred Mason came to realize that working people can become empowered if they organize.

Now, in retirement, Fred also knows that the struggle to organize America must continue.

He knows that political democracy in America is irrevocably linked to the expanded economic and social democracy that has carried so many closer to the American Dream.